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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Sa'ad El-Amin, age 63, of Richmond, Virginia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Henry Hudson, to 37 months incarceration for conspiracy to defraud the United States by failing to file income tax returns and evade taxes. The court allowed El-Amin to self-report on December 2, 2003. He was held accountable for a tax loss of \$710,451.00. El-Amin pleaded guilty to the charge on June 25, 2003.

From 1991 until 2002, Sa'ad El-Amin and Beverly Crawford, his wife, were licensed attorneys practicing as individuals and together through various law firms. They failed to pay the vast majority of the federal taxes that were assessed against them. As a result of their failure to pay these taxes, the Internal Revenue Service filed assessments and liens against El-Amin and Crawford totaling more than \$700,000 for unpaid individual income taxes, corporate income taxes, employment taxes, penalties and interest. Although from 1996 through 2000, El-Amin and Crawford took in more than \$680,000 in receipts in connection with their law practice, they engaged in a pattern of personal and business practices which impeded and impaired the IRS's ability to collect the unpaid taxes and to determine the extent and location of their assets. These practices included El-Amin and Crawford's failing to pay their assessed taxes when they had funds available, and paying personal expenditures and making cash withdrawals from their law firm's trust and operating accounts, which impeded the IRS.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This case brings to a close a sad chapter in the downfall of a community leader who thought himself to be above the law."

Susan M. Dukes, Special Agent-in-Charge, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, and Donald Thompson, Special Agent-In-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation join Mr. McNulty in this announcement.

The case was investigated by agents of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert E. Trono and Gregg R. Nivala.

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